

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SENV, ENRG, PDEV, CA
SUBJECT: STATUS OF YUKON CLAIMS ALONG PROPOSED ALCAN
PIPELINE

1. DURING MAY 27 CALL BY DCM AND EMBOFF ON INDIAN AND
NORTHERN AFFAIRS DEPUTY MINISTER ARTHUR KROEGER TO DIS-
CUSS PROGRESS OF YUKON NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT AS PRELUDE
TO POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF ALCAN PIPELINE, KROEGER MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. LYSYK INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT OF PIPELINE IN YUKON IS WELL UNDERWAY. INITIAL
CRITICISMS AND OPPOSITION TO INQUIRY HAVE FADED AND
VARIOUS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS ARE NOW COOPERATING.
HEAVY SCHEDULE OF HEARINGS IN 17 COMMUNITIES HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED DURING MONTH OF JUNE.

3. WHILE NATIVE CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS HAVE SLOWED DOWN,
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GREAT DEAL HAS ALREADY BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. FOR EXAMPLE,
WORKING GROUPS, WITH NATIVE PARTICIPATION, HAVE BEEN
ESTABLISHED TO CONSIDER BASIC SUBJECTS SUCH AS ELIGIBIL-
ITY, LAND SELECTION PROCESS AND GOVERNMENT STRUCTURES.
SUBSEQUENTLY, SECOND ROUND OF WORKING GROUPS WILL BE SET
UP TO STUDY SUCH MATTERS AS HUNTING AND TRAPPING, TAXA-
TION, ROYALTY SHARING AND MONETARY COMPENSATION. THERE

IS ALREADY AGREEMENT ON PROCEDURES AND GOALS OF CLAIMS SETTLEMENT.

4. COUNCIL OF YUKON INDIANS (CYI) AT PRESENT UNDER CONSIDERABLE STRESS FROM CONTENDING FORCES FAVORING EITHER ECONOMIC/SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OR STATUS QUO. SO FAR, CYI CHIEF DANIEL JOHNSON AND CYI ORGANIZATION AS WHOLE HAVE HELD UP WELL UNDER THESE PRESSURES, AND KROEGER THINKS THERE IS BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THIS PROBABILITY AUGURS WELL FOR CLAIMS SETTLEMENT.

5. IN THIS MORE POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE, KROEGER FORESEES POSSIBILITY THAT ENTIRE PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION ISSUE MAY SHIFT GEARS WITH INDIANS BECOMING PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN ADVERSARIES. KROEGER POINTED OUT THAT CREE INDIANS IN JAMES BAY SETTLEMENT FOLLOWED SUCH PATTERN, I.E., ONCE JAMES BAY SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED, CREES BEGAN PUSHING FOR ACCELERATED DECISIONS ON PROJECT DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO NOTED THAT CAUCASIANS OUTNUMBER NATIVES IN YUKON, AND THAT MUCH IS ALREADY BEING DONE TO DEVELOP POLITICAL PARTICIPATION BY NATIVE PEOPLES IN YUKON GOVERNMENT. ENDERS

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